

Appln. No. 09/380,372
Amd. dated June 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled).

4
6 (Currently amended). The method of Claim [[5]] 16, wherein the cell differentiation-controlling material is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

4
8 (Currently amended). A kit for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell line of claim [[23]] 28 and a reagent for detecting changes of properties of the cell line which may be caused by the action of a candidate cell differentiation-controlling material to be screened.

Claims 9-15 (Cancelled).

2
16 (Currently amended). A method for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising:

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contacting a compound or a mixture of compounds with
using the cell line of claim 21' to screen for a cell
differentiation-controlling material; and
determining the capability of the compound or the
mixture of compounds to induce differentiation of the cell line.

3
17 (Currently amended). The screening method of claim
[[27]] 16, wherein the material screened for is a gene.

5
18 (Previously presented). A kit for screening for a
cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell
line of claim 21' and a reagent for detecting changes of
properties of the cell line which may be caused by the action of
a candidate cell differentiation-controlling material to be
screened.

Claims 19-26 (Cancelled)

1
21 (Previously presented). The cell line which bears
accession no. FERM BP-5823.